



Legislative Bulletin.....May 3, 2005

Contents:

H.Res. 218 – Congratulating charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education

H.Res. 216 – To honor the late playwright Arthur Miller and the University of Michigan for its intention of building a theatre in his name

H.Res. 228 - Honoring the contributions of Vietnamese Americans to American Society over the past three decades

H.Con.Res. 127 - Calling on the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to transfer Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic of Liberia, to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to be tried for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law

H.Res. 233 –Recognizing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day during World War II

H.Res. 195 – **Recognizing** the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day and the Liberation of Western Bohemia.

Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates:

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 0

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

H.Res. 218 – Congratulating charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education— *as introduced* (Porter)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 3rdnd, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 218 resolves that the House of Representatives “acknowledges and commends charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education and improving and strengthening the public school system of the United States, and supports the sixth annual National Charter Schools Week.” Additionally, the measure states that, “it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to conduct appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to demonstrate support for charter schools during this week-long celebration in communities throughout the United States.”

Additional Information: *Charter School Definition:* “Charter schools are nonsectarian public schools of choice that operate with freedom from many of the regulations that apply to traditional public schools.” (www.uscharterschools.org) Charter schools are institutions established by each individual state. Therefore, the legal definition of a charter school varies based upon each state’s legislation and legal code. The US Charter Schools website provides this link to access [State Profiles](#).

The following states have **not** passed a charter school law:

Alabama, Kentucky, Maine, Montana, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Vermont, Washington, and West Virginia.

According to the bill text, “3,300 charter schools are now operating in 40 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and are serving approximately 900,000 students.” Additionally, H.Res. 218 states, “over the last 10 years, Congress has provided more than \$1,500,000,000 in support to the charter school movement through facilities’ financing assistance and grants for planning, startup, implementation, and dissemination.” The sixth annual National Charter Schools Week, will be May 1 to 7, 2005, to “recognize the significant impacts, achievements, and innovations of charter schools.”

For additional information regarding the purpose and function of charter schools, please visit www.uscharterschools.org.

Committee Action: On April 19, 2005, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

RSC Staff Contact: Joelle Cannon; joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9717

H.Res. 216 — To honor the late playwright Arthur Miller and the University of Michigan for its intention of building a theatre in his name—*as introduced* (Schwarz)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 3rd, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 216 resolves that the House of Representatives, “recognizes the extraordinary contributions to American literature and American theatre of Arthur Miller and honors Arthur Miller as a great American and pioneer in the annals of American history.” Additionally, the measure, “commends the University of Michigan for its commitment to build the Arthur Miller Theatre, a fitting monument to one of its most distinguished alumna.”

Additional Information: Arthur Miller, was born in 1915 in New York, and passed away on February 10, 2005, at the age of 89. The Great Depression devastated his parent’s family business, and their small house in Brooklyn became the backdrop for his famous 1949 play, *Death of a Salesman*. According to the text, “...as noted upon his death by *The Michigan Daily*, the student newspaper where Arthur Miller honed his writing, Miller was twice denied admission to the University of Michigan, and gained admittance only after appealing directly to the Dean.” H.Res. 216 also states, “Arthur Miller's first plays were written at the University of Michigan and earned him two Avery Hopwood awards which enabled him to complete his education, that same University now prepares to honor his memory with the Arthur Miller Theatre.” Miller authored numerous plays including, *The Man Who Had All The Luck*, *All My Sons*, *The Crucible*, *The Crucible*, and the screenplay *Misfits*. (Source: <http://www.webenglishteacher.com/miller.html>)

Amidst discussion of his involvement with the Communist Party, in 1956, Miller testified before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Although he admitted to attending several writers’ meetings sponsored by the Communist Party, Miller denied he was a Communist. Miller refused to provide additional names of individuals linked to Communist activities and was cited for contempt of Congress. However, in 1958 the courts overturned the ruling and cleared Miller from being responsible for providing Congress with any names of those involved in the writer’s meetings he previously attended (source: <http://www.webenglishteacher.com/miller.html>).

Committee Action: On April 14, 2005, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

RSC Staff Contact: Joelle Cannon; joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9717

H.Res. 228 — Resolution honoring the contributions of Vietnamese Americans to American society over the past three decades—as amended (Tom Davis)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 3, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 228, *as amended*, states that it is resolved that the House of Representatives:

- “honors the significant contributions of Vietnamese Americans to the richness, diversity, and success of American society;
- “observes the 30th anniversary of the large exodus of refugees from Vietnam when the Republic of Vietnam fell to the Communist forces of North Vietnam;
- “supports all individuals taking part in events in Washington, D.C. and across the United States to commemorate these momentous events in world history;
- “honors the memory of those Vietnamese who lost their lives in that refugee exodus; and
- “urges all citizens of the United States to share in remembering these events and working toward the full realization of freedom, democracy, and equality for all the people of Vietnam.”

Additional Information: According to the resolution’s findings “the United States honors all members of the United States Armed Forces and members of the South Vietnamese forces who fought in the Vietnam conflict, including those individuals who gave the ultimate sacrifice, their lives, for the cause of freedom during such conflict.” The resolution also states, “the interests of the United States with respect to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam will be best served when the Vietnamese people fully enjoy the exercise of their basic human rights regardless of politics, religion, gender, or ethnic origin:”

Committee Action: H.Res. 228 was introduced on April 21, 2005, and referred to the Committee on House International Relations. A Committee mark-up session was held on April 27, 2005, when the resolution was amended and reported to the full House by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

RSC Staff Contact: Sheila Cole; sheila.cole@mail.house.gov; 226-9719

H.Con.Res. 127 — Calling on the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to transfer Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic of Liberia, to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to be tried for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law (Royce)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 3, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 127 states that it is resolved:

“That Congress urges the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to expeditiously transfer Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic of Liberia, to the jurisdiction of the Special Court for Sierra Leone to undergo a fair and open trial for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.”

Additional Information: On January 16, 2002, as requested by UN Security Council Resolution 1315 (<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N00/812/31/PDF/N0081231.pdf?OpenElement>), an agreement was signed by the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the UN to establish the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The Special Court for Sierra Leone was given the power to prosecute persons who have committed and “bear the greatest responsibility” for war crimes, crimes against humanity, other serious violations of international humanitarian law, and certain crimes under Sierra Leonean law committed within the territory of Sierra Leone during that country's brutal civil war during the period after November 30, 1996. To read the full Special Court agreement see: <http://www.sierra-leone.org/specialcourtagreement.html>

The Special Court’s unsealed indictment against former Liberian President Charles Taylor charged him with 17 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other violations of international humanitarian law relating to his role in directly supporting and materially, logistically, and politically abetting the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and its actions, including its widespread and systematic attacks upon the civilian population of Sierra Leone. In 2003, Charles Taylor was granted asylum by Nigeria.

The indictment of Charles Taylor includes charges of terrorizing civilians and subjecting civilians to collective punishment, mass murder, sexual slavery and rape, abduction and hostage taking, severe mutilation, including the cutting off of limbs and other physical violence and inhumane acts, enslavement, forced labor, forced military conscription, including forced conscription of children, theft, arson, looting, and pillage, and widespread attacks upon the UN Mission in Sierra Leone and humanitarian workers by the RUF combatants. According to the resolution, the RUF was notorious for brutally murdering and torturing civilians, including the amputation of limbs with machetes, and by carving “RUF” onto the bodies of thousands of victims, including women and children, and also used abducted children as laborers and soldiers and forced them to perform severe human rights abuses.

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 127 was introduced on April 12, 2005, and referred to the Committee on House International Relations. A Committee mark-up session was held on April 27, 2005, when the committee favorably reported it to the full House.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

RSC Staff Contact: Sheila Cole; sheila.cole@mail.house.gov; 226-9719

H.Res. 233 — Recognizing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe (V-E) Day during World War II — *as amended* (Gallegly)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 3rd, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 233 resolves that the House of Representatives, “recognizes the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, joins with a grateful Nation in expression respect and appreciation to and women who served in the European theater during World War II, and remembers and pays tribute to those Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their life for their country.”

Additional Information According to the text, “on May 7, 1946, at General Dwight Eisenhower’s headquarters in Reims, France, a representative of the German High command signed the document of surrender, unconditionally surrendering all air, land and sea forces to the Allies on May 8, ending the war in Europe. May 8, 2005, marks the 60th anniversary of V-E Day,” a day which “marked the culmination of the efforts of many different nations in the Allied forces who were united by the common quest for peace and justice and who fought valiantly to liberate occupied countries and to prevent Hitler’s onslaught.”

Committee Action: On April 26, 2005, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on International Relations, which considered it, held a mark-up, and reported it to the full House by unanimous consent on April 27, 2005. The Committee’s only amendment corrected a typographical error in the original language.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

RSC Staff Contact: Joelle Cannon; joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9717

H.Res. 195— Recognizing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day and the Liberation of Western Bohemia — *as amended* (Kingston)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 3rd, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 195 resolves that the House of Representatives, “recognizes the 60th anniversary of the Liberation of Western Bohemia in the European theater of operations during World War II, which culminated in an Allied victory that assured the defeat of Nazi Germany and ended the War in Europe two weeks later.” Additionally, the measure states that the House of Representatives, “honors those individuals who gave their lives during the Liberation of Western Bohemia, encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to honor the veterans of the Liberation of Western Bohemia with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, reaffirms the bonds of friendship between the United States and the brave citizens of the Czech Republic, and seeks to continue building a great future between our countries.”

Additional Information: According to the text, “the final major offensive in the European theater of operations during World War II, known as the Liberation of Western Bohemia, was fought from April 25, 1945, to May 8, 1945, with Victory in Europe (VE) Day declared on May 8, 1945. The Liberation of Western Bohemia was the closing offensive of World War II, which decisively contributed to the ultimate capitulation of the German Third Reich. On May 4, 1945, General George S. Patton gave the

order for the American Third Army, consisting of 18 divisions and 500,000 men, to resume the Allied offensive into Western Bohemia, and on May 5, 1945, the Third Army liberated the city of Plzen (Pilsen), the western-most city in then-Czechoslovakia.” Additionally, H.Res 195 states, “the people of the Czech Republic, symbolizing their friendship and gratitude toward the American soldiers who fought to secure their freedom, have graciously hosted countless veterans groups over the years, and the friendship between the United States and the Czech Republic is strong today in part because of the Liberation of Western Bohemia.”

Committee Action: On April 6, 2005, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on International Relations, which considered it, held a mark-up, and reported it to the full House by unanimous consent on April 26, 2005. The Committee made no substantive changes to the measure, but did change the resolution title to “Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Liberation of Western Bohemia by United States Armed Forces during World War II and the continued friendship between the people of the United States and the Czech Republic.”

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

RSC Staff Contact: Joelle Cannon; joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9717

###

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.